

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

19

DECISION

TOPIC **Land Management Project Approval**

Black Hawk State Park – Sac County – City of Lake View

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a management agreement with the City of Lake View, Iowa to allow the city to maintain a recreational trail through a portion of Black Hawk Lake State Park through February 28, 2035.

The City of Lake view proposes to develop a multi-use recreational trail around Black Hawk Lake, a sovereign state owned lake. The project envisions a seven-mile long trail around the lake for use by hikers, bikers and skaters. This new trail will connect to the existing Sauk Rail Trail. When connected to the Sauk Rail Trail, trail users will have access to a 40-mile long trail from Swan Lake in Carroll to Black Hawk Lake in Lake View. The project is proposed to be completed in seven phases. Phase 1 is located through the portion of the state park, locally known as Ice House Point. That area is located adjacent to the southwest shore of the lake immediately southeast of the city on sovereign land that is fill from a 1930's dredge project. The city completed grading for the trail in 2007 and has applied for and received a construction permit from the DNR to construct a paved 10-foot wide by 2000-foot segment of trail in 2010. At Ice House Point, a resting area with benches will be constructed. Fishers will also use the trail for access to the point. The waters off the point are the deepest waters in the lake where a rocky bottom is established as fish habitat.

This proposed management agreement will set forth the responsibilities of the city and the DNR for future maintenance and management. Under the agreement, the city will be responsible for all expenses for site development, construction and future maintenance for grading, culverts, concrete replacement and bench replacement. The DNR will manage the trail within state property and be responsible for regular mowing, tree limb removal, snow removal and bench maintenance.

If under future phases of the project, the city proposes to construct additional trail segments on property under DNR jurisdiction, this agreement will allow amendments to include those segments under the original terms of the agreement without further approval by the commission.

Staff recommends approval of management agreement.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
February 11, 2010

Attachment: location map